

Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council



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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1969



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1969

PRINTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL



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MEMBERS OF THE CALNE AND CHILPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- \* Bailey, W.S.R.
- \* Beale, Mrs.J.S.
- \* Beard, A.S.M.
- (2) Bright, J.
- \* Brocklebank, Mrs.K.E.
- \* Cheetham, Lt.Cdr.A.E.B.
- \* Clarkson, Miss J.
- \* Cook, J.C.
- Dove, R.R.
- Fetherston-Godley, Mrs.P.
- \* Field, C.E.J.
- Fudge, R.
- Fuller, Mrs.C.H.
- Gale, E.W.
- Gordon-Farleigh, D.
- \* Greenwood, J.C.
- Heath, A.H.
- \* Henly, R.T.
- Hibberd, R.G.
- Holman, W.T.
- \* Hles, Mrs.E.D.
- Irwin, Mrs.A.J.
- \* Isaac, W.E.
- Jackson, A.S.R.
- Jefferies, H.
- \* King, K.G.
- \* Light, W.J. (Chairman of the Council)
- \* Luard, Mrs.P.J.
- Merry, Mrs.K.J.
- Mills, Mrs.H.E.
- \* Pearce, R.R.
- \* Pinker, A.A.
- \* Prior, W.P.
- Sapsford, L.
- Shanks, A.H.E.
- Shaw, H.E.
- (1) Shelburne, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
- \* Smith, F.Halliburton.
- \* Spackman, E.S.
- \* Thomas, G.W.

- (1) - Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- (2) - Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- \* - Members of the Public Health Committee.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

John R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,  
Monkton Park,  
Chippenham.  
Tel.No. Chippenham 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:  
Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury,  
and the  
Rural District of Malmesbury.  
Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.  
School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:

S.G.V.Williamson, Cert.R.I.P.H.H.

Mrs.V.L.Gregory (as from December 1969).

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H.J.Taylor, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Offices: Bewley House,  
Marshfield Road,  
Chippenham.  
Tel.No. Chippenham 2854.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.F.M.Howard, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

S.H.Murray, M.A.P.H.I.

E.J.Silvester, M.A.P.H.I.

G.Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

(c) COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL which are concerned  
with matters of Public Health:

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee.

These Committees meet monthly throughout  
the year, except during August, and deal  
with all matters appertaining to Public  
Health and Housing.

Accident Prevention Committee - this meets quarterly.



To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the  
year 1969.

Compared with the previous year, the birth rate has  
increased and the death rate decreased. The infant mortality  
rate, which can fluctuate widely due to the small numbers  
involved, has in most years remained favourably below the rate for  
England and Wales, and has done so again for 1969.

The peri-natal mortality rate gives an indication of the  
ante-natal and post-natal care available in the Rural District.  
The rate for 1969 is well below that for England and Wales. As a  
co-opted member of the Maternity Hospitals Committee of the  
Mid-Wilts Hospital Management Committee, I have had first-hand  
experience of the excellent co-operation between the hospital service,  
the family doctor service, and the Wiltshire County Council Health  
Service. I have also experienced this in my work as a School  
Medical Officer. There are plans to integrate these three branches  
of the health service under one administration, but outside local  
government. I am not yet convinced that this will give a better  
service to the public in this area, because there will then be a new  
administrative gap between the public health doctors (administered  
by the new Area Health Board) and the environmental health services  
and social welfare services (run by the local authorities).

I would like to pay tribute to the work of  
Mr.S.G.V.Williamson, for many years Secretary to the Medical Officer  
of Health, who regrettably died in October 1969.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Council and its officers  
for their help and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. WRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.





REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ... ..	32,440
Number of domestic premises (Valuation Roll), as at 31st March 1969 ... ..	8,843
Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1969 ...	2,087
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1969 ... ..	364
Rateable value, as at 1st April 1969 ... ..	£ 979,868
Estimated product of Penny Rate, as at 1st April 1969 ...	£ 3,955

B. VITAL STATISTICS.

1. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Birth and Death Rates compared with other Areas.

(Births and Deaths per 1000 population, standardised\*)

	<u>Birth Rate:</u>		<u>Death Rate:</u>	
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	17.3	18.9	11.9	10.2
Wiltshire ... ..	17.6	17.6	10.9	10.7
England and Wales ... ..	16.9	16.3	11.9	11.9

\* Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar-General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate ... ..	266	254	520
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>29</u>
Totals:-	<u>286</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>549</u>

### 3. STILL BIRTHS AND PERI-NATAL MORTALITY.

Four still births were notified during 1969, a decrease of three from the total notified during 1968. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is seven. The rate for England and Wales, as given by the Registrar-General, is thirteen.

Peri-natal mortality means still births and deaths under one week of age. The rate for the district was sixteen per 1000 total births (live and still), whereas for England and Wales it was twenty-three.

### 4. INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Under one year ... ..	3	5	8
Under four weeks ... ..	2	4	6
Under one week ... ..	2	3	5
Infant Mortality Rate for the District ...	15.6 per 1000 live births.		
Comparative Rate for England and Wales ...	18.0 per 1000 live births.		

### 5. DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	1	-	1
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, buccal cavity etc. ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, oesophagus ... ..	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, intestine ... ..	4	5	9
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	9	2	11
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..	-	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ... ..	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms ... ..	4	6	10
Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	3	1	4
Anaemias ... ..	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc. ...	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ... ..	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease ... ..	2	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease ... ..	52	18	70
Other forms of Heart Disease ... ..	4	3	7
Cerebrovascular Disease ... ..	9	14	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	9	7	16
Influenza ... ..	2	2	4
Pneumonia ... ..	8	15	23
Bronchitis and Emphysema ... ..	9	2	11
Asthma ... ..	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ... ..	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ... ..	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System ...	2	2	4
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies ... ..	-	3	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc. ...	2	-	2
Other Causes of Peri-Natal Mortality ...	-	3	3
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ...	-	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	7	1	8
All other Accidents ... ..	5	1	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	1	1	2
All other External Causes ... ..	1	-	1
Totals:-	<u>147</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>255</u>



As in previous years, the main cause of death was ischaemic (coronary) heart disease. Of the 70 deaths from this cause, 32 were in persons aged 75 and over. But what is unfortunate, is deaths from this cause in men under retirement age - four were in men under 45 years old, six in men aged less than 55, and twelve in men aged under 65. On the subject of prevention I would like to quote the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, who wrote in his 1968 Annual Report: "...It is good advice, especially to middle-aged men, to eat moderately, walk gladly and smoke not at all.."

There were fewer deaths from lung cancer (eleven) compared with 1968 (eighteen). Health education is undertaken in Wiltshire schools to warn pupils of the dangers of cigarette smoking.

There was only one death from cancer of the uterus, a disease which the Cervical Cytology Clinics aim to prevent. However, there were eight deaths from cancer of the breast.

At all the Cervical Cytology Clinics in Wiltshire, examination of the breasts is carried out at the same session, so women are well-advised to attend these clinics, as early detection of breast cancer can lead to complete cure. During the year, leaflets on self-examination of the breasts were issued free to women's organisations.

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents were up from five in 1968, to eight in 1969. Three of the accidents were in boys of the age group 15-24. Perhaps I should explain that these fatal accidents could have occurred anywhere in the British Isles, but all were residents of the Rural District.

### C. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following table gives details of cases of notifiable disease during the past four years:

	1966		1967		1968		1969	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Tuberculosis	10	10	14	14	2	2	4	4
Scarlet Fever	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	4
Whooping Cough	4	4	10	10	5	5	-	-
Measles	190	190	350	350	45	45	138	138
Dysentery	100	77	42	36	31	31	9	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella Infections	2	2	8	8	2	2	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	3	3	2	-	4	-
Infectious Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	4	4	35	35
Totals:-	308	285	431	425	93	91	195	189
(a) = Numbers originally notified. (b) = Final numbers, after correction.								

No cases of poliomyelitis, typhoid fever or diphtheria have occurred during the four years covered by this table. No cases of tetanus were notified during the year. (Tetanus only became notifiable for the first time in October 1968). Immunisation of children against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough continues to protect against these formerly fatal or crippling diseases.

During the year, port health authorities notified us of the names and addresses of several residents who had returned from holidays abroad and been found to have been contacts of cases of typhoid fever. None of these developed the disease, but travellers, especially those going to Spain, should obtain advice from their family doctor at least two months before departure about the desirability of immunisation against typhoid.

On two occasions during the year, port health authorities notified us of families who had returned from a smallpox endemic area without having valid smallpox vaccination certificates. They were kept under surveillance until all danger of developing the disease was past. Travellers to anywhere on the north coast of Africa should note that they must obtain smallpox vaccination certificates from their family doctor before departure.

(a) Tuberculosis.

Four cases were notified during the year. The Public Health Department investigated the housing of the family, and the Chest Physician (assisted by Health Visitors of Wiltshire County Council) follows up contacts. The Wiltshire County Council offer immunisation protection against this disease to children at secondary school. The Regional Chest Radiography Centre at Bristol sends a mobile X-ray van around the area which can be used by any of the general public who want a chest X-ray. This is available in Chippenham, adjoining the Neeld Hall, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on alternate Thursdays, and in Calne, at The Strand, from 2.15 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays. Not only does this service give peace of mind to thousands who are worried about their chest, but it also gives early warning of cancer of the lung, at a stage when it can be successfully treated.

I am indebted to the 1968 Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, for the following figures of persons X-rayed by Mass Radiography in Wiltshire for that year. Out of 13,204 members of the public who attended of their own volition for chest X-ray, five were found to have tuberculosis and seven to have early cancer of the lung. There were a further 5,583 persons X-rayed after being referred by their family doctors, and obviously in these people more cases of disease were found, but the 13,204 people aforementioned would probably never have gone to a doctor until it was too late to cure them or stop them spreading disease. As it was, thirteen thousand one hundred and ninety-two of them obtained reassurance and peace of mind (and the other twelve, expert treatment). Surely this is a service worth paying for? I make this point because the Department of Health is considering gradual elimination of the Mass Radiography Service - apparently they consider it does not find enough disease. This appears to ignore the satisfied healthy customers.

(b) Whooping Cough.

No cases were reported during the year. This shows the continuing importance of immunisation of infants.



(c) Measles.

This should have been an epidemic year but less cases than expected occurred. It is hoped that the immunisation against measles organised by Wiltshire County Council will continue to reduce this disease, which can produce very serious illness. Although there is often a mild reaction a few days after immunisation, this is a negligible discomfort to protect against a potentially serious disease.

(d) Dysentery and Food Poisoning.

Scattered cases of mild dysentery occurred throughout the year. Of the nine cases notified, two were found not to be dysentery after laboratory tests. Also, in the case of an outbreak of four cases of food poisoning notified, it was concluded after investigation and laboratory tests that this was not food poisoning but probably "winter vomiting" or "epidemic gastro-enteritis". This is a common condition in children and in most cases they have a one-day illness consisting of nausea and vomiting, accompanied in some cases by abdominal pains, slight fever and headache. As they are nearly always better the following day, many people do not inform their family doctor. The cause is undoubtedly an infectious agent such as a virus, although extensive laboratory tests have never isolated a germ. There are often epidemics in schools, particularly boarding schools, and these have naturally led to extensive investigation.

(e) Salmonella Infection.

There was one case of this infection in a small child in a village. Farm animals are often a source of infection, and epidemics have been caused by improper and inadequate cooking of frozen chickens. All reputable firms that sell frozen chickens now have instructions on the packets, advising the public as to the time and heat for cooking. Health Inspectors warned catering establishments of the danger of spit-roasting - a form of cooking in which the centre of the chicken is not cooked adequately enough to kill off germs.

A welcome innovation during the year was that the Divisional Veterinary Officer started the practice of informing me of cases of salmonella infection diagnosed in farm animals.

(f) Infectious Hepatitis.

Cases occurred throughout the year, mostly in the Corsham area, a total of 35 cases being notified. This cannot be compared with previous years as the disease only became notifiable in 1968. As I stated in last year's report, this is an endemic disease (i.e. like measles, it is continually being spread) and most people obtain immunity in childhood, often without realising they have had it, as only severe cases become jaundiced. So far, laboratories have been unable to manufacture a vaccine to give active immunity against it.

(g) Influenza.

For technical reasons this is not a notifiable disease, but the local office of the Ministry of Social Security informs the Medical Officer of Health if there is a sudden rise in the weekly number of claims for sickness benefit. Local family doctors are requested by our Public Health Laboratory in Bath to send specimens, and then the type of influenza can be identified. In 1969 there was a very sharp epidemic of "Asian-type" influenza in this area, reaching its peak just before Christmas. As can be seen from the list of causes of death, there were four deaths from influenza, three being in people aged 65-74 and one in someone over 75. Vaccines against influenza need to be altered from year to year to take account of new strains of the disease, and although they give protection, they do not guarantee 100% immunity. They are usually offered to key workers such as police, ambulance staff, nursing and medical staff, and by family doctors to elderly persons suffering from chest or heart complaints.

(h) Brucellosis.

Although this disease is not notifiable, it does occur occasionally in man. It is caused by the same germ that causes abortion in cattle and can be contracted by contact with infected animals or by drinking infected milk. The Public Health Department take regular samples of raw milk and all were negative for brucellosis in 1969. However, until this disease is eliminated from cattle, which will take many years, I would strongly advise the public not to buy raw untreated milk or, if they do, to boil it first. Pasteurised milk is quite safe.

Before concluding this section on infectious disease, I should like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Paul Mann, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Bath, whose enthusiastic help and sound advice has played a vital part in our infectious disease control.

Finally, the prevention of so much infectious disease depends on the immunisation carried out by family doctors and clinics, and this work is directed and paid for by Wiltshire County Council.

(i) Immunisation and Vaccination.

I am grateful to Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following statistics on immunisation:

Year of Birth:-		1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1960 to 1964	1954 to 1959	Others under 16
Primary immunisations completed during 1969:	Diph.	192	179	19	3	1	12	2	-
	Wh.C.	187	176	8	-	-	5	-	-
	Tet's.	192	179	19	3	1	13	2	13
	Meas.	-	44	160	62	36	88	68	-
	Polio.	188	209	30	9	13	31	1	-
Reinforcing Immunisations given in 1969:	Diph.	3	70	212	18	98	368	5	-
	Wh.C.	-	56	139	8	6	22	-	-
	Tet's.	3	70	212	18	98	378	12	32
	Polio.	-	65	189	17	93	279	17	3

Age Group:-	Months:				Years:		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Smallpox Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	145	142	21
" Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	30

D. WATER SUPPLIES.

I am indebted to Mr. C. R. Phillips, the Engineer to the North Wilts Water Board, for a comprehensive report, much of which has been included in the attached report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

There is good co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Water Board. If unsatisfactory samples are obtained, the results are telephoned through from the Public Health Laboratory, and the Engineer is then informed. After the necessary action has been carried out by the Water Board, repeat samples are taken by the Public Health Department.



Medical examinations of the Board's employees are undertaken by general practitioners in contract with the Board, and the Medical Officer of Health advises on their suitability for employment.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.4 to 0.8 parts per million in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources, but it is usually absent in water obtained from shallow wells and spring sources. It is my clear impression, from examinations, that children born in areas where there is naturally occurring fluoride in the water have far better teeth than those raised in areas where the water is lacking in fluoride. These clinical impressions are supported by numerous scientific reports, the latest of which was a government survey of the results of eleven years of fluoridation. This report was circulated to all members of the Council and I was therefore naturally disappointed when the Council, by a majority vote, decided not to recommend to Wiltshire County Council that fluoride should be added to water supplies that are deficient in it. However, I was not surprised, as I have not yet detected a massive public demand for this measure. This is a challenge for health education.

A report of the World Health Organisation that was issued in 1969 recommends all countries to introduce fluoridation of water supplies. To quote from the report:-

"....Dental caries is one of man's most prevalent chronic diseases, affecting people of all ages in all countries.

"....Fluoridation does not eradicate dental caries but substantially reduces its prevalence and incidence. Best results are seen in children who have consumed fluoridated water since birth, as they generally have less than half the number of dental cavities that they would otherwise have had. ...."

#### E. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am grateful to Mr. Langley-Jones, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information:-

##### (a) South-Eastern Area.

This scheme, to serve the Parishes of Calne Without, Cherhill, Compton Bassett and Heddington, is expected to be approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The estimated cost is £266,255. As part of this scheme, negotiations are almost complete for the acquisition of the Compton Bassett Sewage Works.

##### (b) Corshan.

The Ministry have authorised Stage I of the Corshan Sewerage Scheme, consisting of relief sewers and improvements to the Thingley Sewage Works.

##### (c) North-Eastern Area.

The Council have agreed to accept the foul water drainage from the Motorway Service Area at Leigh Delamere into the North-Eastern Sewerage area. The scheme involves an outfall sewer to Sutton Benger which will permit drainage of the Stanton villages. The overall cost of the scheme is estimated at £91,630 and the nett cost to the Council at £47,130.

##### (d) Burton.

A sewerage scheme for Burton is being prepared.

F. HOUSING.

I would like to quote from the Annual Report for 1968 of Dr.F.J.G.Lishman, the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Salisbury and Wilton, on the subject of housing.

"....More than ever now, after over fourteen years' work in this part of England, I am convinced that, given adequate food and healthy water to drink, there is no other factor, either on the sanitary (environmental) side or among the numerous 'personal medical services' that can equal 'housing' as a means of either promoting or undermining health...."

I have quoted him because I agree with him, and he is more experienced than I am.

I would like to congratulate the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council on being the most progressive Council in the housing field that I have known. Not only do the Council allocate a very fair proportion of Council housing to the socially inadequate, the physically handicapped, and the elderly, but also they have taken the full opportunities offered to them by their powers under the Housing Acts to encourage the improvement and modernisation of old properties. The 1969 Housing Act allows greatly increased discretionary improvement grants, but as the Act did not become operational until the latter part of the year, the housing statistics in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report do not reflect the great increase that is now taking place in housing improvement. This will be reflected in the 1970 report.

I am grateful to Mr.O.J.Baugh, the Council's Housing Manager, for the following information:-

1. STATISTICS.

(1)	No. of applicants on list at 31st December 1969	...	...	...	364
(2)	No. of applicants for retirement accommodation included in (1) above	...	...	...	115
(3)	No. of applicants rehoused	...	...	...	67
(4)	Evicted families:				
	(a) No. brought to notice	...	...	...	17
	(b) No. rehoused	...	...	...	12
(5)	No. of units of accommodation built and occupied during 1969:				
	(a) By the Council:				
		Houses	...	...	28
		Flats	...	...	-
		Retirement bungalows	...	...	28
	(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	194
(6)	No. of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1969:				
		Permanent	...	...	2023
		Temporary	...	...	64
					2087

2. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF WARTIME BUNGALOW ESTATES.

Further progress was made with the clearance of wartime bungalows from the Community Centre Estate at Corsham. At 31st December, only twenty occupied ones remained, and it was estimated that these would be cleared by 31st March 1970.



Twenty-eight three-bedroomed houses equipped with "Visaire" oil-fired central heating were completed at Beechfield Road, and construction of sixteen retirement flats at Brunel Close was commenced. These were being provided with "Electricaire" central heating, an alarm call system, and a part-time warden on the telephone.

3. HOUSING APPLICATION LIST AND FUTURE HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The number of applicants for housing accommodation on the list at 31st December showed an increase of 14% on the figure at the corresponding time the previous year. This was due partly to a strengthening of demand for accommodation in the Calne area, and partly to the fact that all available units of accommodation in the Corsham area were used to re-house tenants of wartime bungalows.

Having regard to the fact that re-development of the wartime bungalow sites was nearing completion, it was considered that with the provision of some additional units of retirement accommodation, the number of casual vacancies - about 90 per year - would be sufficient to meet the needs of the district.

Subject to financial considerations, it was therefore decided that the Council's future housing programme would be as follows:-

1970/71: No new building.

Conversion and Improvement Schemes:

Corsham: 7-10, Cross Keys.  
15-17, High Street.

Bremhill: Ivy Cottage, East Tytherton.

1971/72: Castle Combe: 20 units of accommodation at Whitegates, to replace wartime bungalows.

Yatton Keynell: 4-6 retirement bungalows.

Box: Retirement accommodation.

1972/73: Corsham: A grouped dwelling on the Community Centre Estate.

G. OTHER MATTERS.

1. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.  
FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Details of services, and information required, under the above Acts, will be found in the attached report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

2. CIVIL DEFENCE.

In the event of war the Rural District Council is required to bring into operation a local organisation to deal with emergency conditions. Meanwhile, 'Community Advisers' from every village are being given extensive studies on the problems likely to be faced. I prepared draft papers on the subject of 'maintenance of health', and a great deal of this was incorporated into the official study of the subject.

3. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951.

The Council has delegated to the Medical Officer of Health its power under this Act to apply to a magistrate for an order for admission to hospital, in an emergency, of a person suffering from grave chronic disease who is not receiving proper medical care and attention. It is very rarely necessary for this power to be invoked as usually when there is a request from a family doctor for someone to be persuaded to go into hospital, their consent is eventually obtained. However, during the year it was necessary to obtain a magistrate's order in one case where the person concerned was too gravely ill to understand the urgent necessity of hospital admission.

4. WELFARE OF THE AGED.

The care of the aged and of the handicapped comes under the Wiltshire County Council services, but it is often officers of the Public Health Department who first come across people in need of their services. I therefore welcome the monthly meetings that I have with the Area Welfare Officer, as this gives an opportunity to exchange information. In certain cases it may be possible to recommend Council housing on medical grounds.

The Meals-on-Wheels service is an admirable one run by voluntary organisations. In Corsham it is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (helped by members of other organisations such as the British Red Cross Society). In rural areas it is difficult to extend the service due to lack of volunteers and transport. A scheme by the Wiltshire County Council Welfare Service may overcome at least the transport difficulty - this is a 'Help your Neighbour' scheme whereby a small sum is paid for each meal a neighbour is willing to cook and deliver to an elderly person in need of this service.

5. ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council is concerned with research into these crippling conditions and a local branch has been started in Chippenham. Interested persons should contact the Secretary, Mr.L.Robinson-Thursfield, of 68 Park Lane, Chippenham.

6. CLINICS.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, for the following information regarding sessions held at the main Wiltshire County Council Clinics in the area:

- (a) Chippenham: Health Clinic, Goldney Avenue, Chippenham.  
Telephone No. Chippenham 3184.

Cervical Cytology:	2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.15-4 p.m.
Child Health Clinic	Every Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.
and Welfare Foods:	Every Thursday, 2-4 p.m.
	Every 3rd Friday (Immunisation Clinic), 2-4 p.m.
Child Guidance Clinics:	Every Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.
Chiropody Clinics:	Arranged by appointment as required.
Dental Clinics:	Daily - by appointment.
Family Planning Clinics	Every Monday, 6.30-9 p.m.
(F.P.Association):	3rd Friday, 9.30-11 a.m.
Mothercraft Classes:	Every Monday, 2.30-4 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinics:	Every Wednesday, 10.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.
	1st Friday, a.m., alternate months.
Remedial Exercises:	Every Tuesday, 9.45 a.m. to 12 noon.



School Medical                      1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m.  
Officers' Clinic:

Speech Therapy Clinics:    Every Tuesday, 1.30-4.30 p.m.  
                                 Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.  
                                 and 1.30-4.30 p.m.  
                                 Every Friday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.  
                                 (except in school holidays).

(b) Calne: Doctor's Surgery, Station Road, Calne.

Child Health Clinic:        Every Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Family Planning Clinic:    1st and 4th Wednesdays, 6.30-7.30 p.m.

(c) Corsham: Health Clinic, Fuller Avenue, Corsham.  
                 Telephone No. Corsham 3282.

Ante-Natal Clinic:        Every Thursday, a.m. only.  
                                 Every Friday, p.m. only.

Child Health Clinic        Every Thursday, 2-4 p.m.  
and Welfare Foods:

Chiropody Clinics:        By appointment.

Dental Clinics:            By appointment.

Mothercraft Classes:      Every Friday, 2-4 p.m.

For School Children (by appointment):-

Cardiac Clinic:            2nd Friday, p.m., alternate months.

Ear, Nose and              2nd Mondays, 2.30-4 p.m.  
Throat Clinics:

Ophthalmic Clinic:        Wednesdays, a.m. and p.m

Orthopaedic Clinic:       Wednesday, p.m., as required, and  
1st Friday, a.m., alternate months.

Remedial Exercises:      As required.

Speech Therapy:           Every Wednesday, 9.30 a.m.- 12 noon  
                                 (except in school holidays).

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REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to make my twentieth contribution to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and to describe in some detail the activities of the Public Health Department during 1969.

Public Cleansing Service.

It has been a year of steady progress in the improvement of environmental conditions in the area. Unfortunately, no finality has been reached in the provision of the essential joint refuse disposal facilities by a Consortium of Local Authorities which have been under discussion since 1964.

A Consultants' report, which set out four alternative proposals for consideration, was presented to the Council in July, and it was finally decided to proceed with a scheme which would enable refuse from the undermentioned five authorities, plus industrial waste, to be treated by continuous incineration. The authorities which form the Consortium are:-

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council  
Calne Borough Council  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council  
Chippenham Borough Council  
Trowbridge Urban District Council.

A further approach was also made to the Melksham Urban District Council and Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council, to establish whether these authorities would be interested in joining the scheme.

A meeting of the Consortium was held on the 3rd December 1969, when the Consultants presented an addendum to their earlier report. In this report it was recommended that a plant of 7 tons per hour throughput would prove the most economic solution. This would operate on a two shifts per day, five day working week, which accorded with the advice of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The plant would be capable of dealing with industrial waste, but as Melksham Urban District Council and Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council had decided not to join with the Consortium, no provision had been made in the 7-tons plant to deal with refuse from those authorities.

Subject to each constituent authority ratifying the approval of the Consortium, an application for loan sanction would be made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the sum of £596,000 for a plant having a capacity of 7 tons per hour throughput.

An immediate decision on this project is vital, otherwise this Council is going to have to face a problem of lack of tipping space, unless some unforeseen tipping facility materialises in the meantime.

### Work Study.

The Consultants engaged to carry out a work study of the Buildings, Public Cleansing, and Sewerage Departments have been working on their proposals but, by the end of the year, no preliminary report on any of the services was ready for consideration by the Council.

### Housing and Housing Improvement.

The Housing Act 1969 became law in August and a detailed report on its main provisions was presented to the Council.

The main purpose of the Act is to encourage owners to improve their houses and to give local authorities power to improve the environment of houses in an "improvement area". In addition to their present authority for dealing with unfit houses, it gives local authorities power to require houses needing substantial repairs to be brought up to a reasonable standard of fitness, regardless of whether or not they are unfit for human habitation.

The Act places a duty on local authorities to cause their district to be inspected from time to time in order to determine what action to take in performing their functions under the Housing Acts.

As the information on the condition of house properties kept in the office was somewhat out of date and could not be relied upon to produce the statistics required by the Housing Act 1969, I recommended the Council to institute a survey of all properties with a rateable value of £56 or less during the next five years.

The purpose of the survey would be to:-

- (a) determine general improvement areas;
- (b) identify properties not provided with some or all standard amenities;
- (c) ascertain the state of disrepair of habitable dwellings;
- (d) reveal unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable expense.

It was further decided to proceed with this survey parish by parish, beginning with Stanton St. Quintin, on which a report on the initial survey would be presented in January 1970.

### Improvement Grants.

There are now three kinds of grants - improvement grants, standard grants and special grants.

Under previous legislation, the maximum discretionary grant was £400, except under certain exceptional circumstances; this has now been raised to £1,000 and the control conditions attached to such grants have been removed. It is now possible to allow certain repairs and the replacement of obsolete fittings to rank for grant, but under no circumstances may more than 50% of the approved expense relate to such work.

Standard grants are mandatory and amendments have been made to such grants so that now it is possible to obtain up to £200 towards the installation of the following facilities:-



(a)	A fixed bath or shower ... ..	£30
(b)	Hot and cold water supply to fixed bath or shower ... ..	£45
(c)	Wash-hand basin ... ..	£10
(d)	Hot and cold water supply to wash-hand basin ... ..	£20
(e)	Sink ... ..	£15
(f)	Hot and cold water supply to sink...	£30
(g)	Water closet ... ..	£50

Where it is necessary to install a septic tank system, or build on a new bathroom structure, or bring a piped water supply into a house for the first time, an "extended" standard grant may be given, up to a maximum of £450.

#### Special Grants.

Special grants are new and discretionary. They are payable for the improvement of houses in multiple occupation by the provision of standard amenities, but there will be little demand for this form of grant in this district, for very few dwellings are in multiple occupation.

#### Financial Effect of Increased Grants on this Council.

The local effect of the increase in the maximum grant, the extension of grant to some items of repair, and the greater incentive to seek grants, is difficult to estimate, but it has been recommended that the total expenditure of £24,000 for the financial year 1968/9 be increased to £38,000 for the coming financial year. The experience gained in 1970 will indicate the success or otherwise of the Housing Act 1969, but in my view these more generous grants will result in an increasing number of applications being received, making it necessary for the Council to increase its annual contribution towards improvement grants.

#### Average Amounts of Grants Paid.

The undermentioned statistics may be of interest to the Council for they reveal how fairly consistent the average grants have been for the period 1966-1969.

There is evidence however, that building prices will rise substantially during 1970 owing to wage increases and rising costs of materials, but I suspect that the more generous grants will also influence the tenders submitted by building contractors.

#### Average of:-

	<u>Discretionary Grants:</u>	<u>Standard Grants:</u>
1966	£349	£177
1967	£377	£176
1968	£382	£170
1969	£368	£154

#### Rents of Improved Dwellings.

The Housing Act 1969 makes provision for controlled tenancies to be converted to regulated ones where the dwelling qualifies for standard or discretionary grant. Copies of the grant application are sent to the tenant and, when the scheme has been checked, a Certificate of Provisional Approval is sent to the landlord.

The Rent Officer fixes a "fair rent" after consultation with the landlord and tenant, and the tenant's written agreement is then required before the improvements can be started. On satisfactory completion of the works, the Council issues a Qualification Certificate to the landlord, enabling him to increase the rent by the specified amount.

A similar procedure will come into force in 1971/2 for dealing with rent controlled dwellings which, when this Act came into force, were of the required standard and were not subject to conditions attached to improvement grants.

#### Housing Slum Clearance.

A modest amount of slum clearance work has been undertaken during the year and reported to the Council. Fortunately, there are very few completely unfit houses within the Rural District, although there are many still in need of modernisation and repair. Such properties will be brought to light by the survey to be undertaken during the next five years.

Our limited surveys of unfit houses have revealed that these properties are predominantly occupied by elderly people who are reasonably happy to continue in occupation of such properties, let at very low, uneconomic rents.

There was an unusual reaction by an owner to the routine inspection of an old cottage when the tenant was offered Council accommodation. The owner was against accepting an improvement grant on principle, and his principles also prevented him from selling the cottage because it was unfit. Discussion failed to move him from his viewpoint and at considerable loss to himself he gave the cottage and land to the Council. The property is to be reconditioned and modernised for occupation by a Council tenant. The viewpoint of the owner may be based on irrational thinking but it has to be admired; his like are few and far between.

#### Caravan Sites Act 1968 - Gypsy Encampments.

Section 6 of this Act makes it a duty of a County Council, County Borough, or London Borough, to exercise their powers under Section 24 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 to provide caravan sites, so far as may be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for gypsies residing in or resorting to their area. It is the County Council's duty to determine what sites are required and to acquire the necessary land, and it is the responsibility of district councils to provide and maintain caravan sites and to make such reasonable charges as they may determine. The County Council must then reimburse the district councils if their reasonable expenditure exceeds receipts.

I am still without any knowledge of the County Council's proposals in connection with this need.

There is no permanent gypsy caravan problem in this district but a seasonal problem exists during spring and autumn when gypsies and fellow travellers are passing through the district or making a temporary stay on common land and roadside verges for periods of from one to two weeks. It is usually our experience to find these areas, on vacation, strewn with litter etc. and complaints are received of trespass and damage on adjoining land.

#### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960: Construction of M.4 Motorway.

Paragraph 9 of the First Schedule of this Act gives exemption from licensing conditions to building and engineering works where land is used as a caravan site which forms part of or adjoins



land on which building or engineering operations are carried on, if that use is for the occupation of a person or persons employed in connection with the said operations.

This exemption has caused the Public Health Department some trouble in relation to the large caravan site established at Stanton St. Quintin by contractors engaged on the construction of the M.4 motorway passing through the Rural District. The site has caused problems associated with refuse disposal, sanitary accommodation and general hygiene.

Some of these difficulties were overcome, but we experienced considerable trouble in establishing contact with management with sufficient authority or interest effectively to control and supervise the various activities on the site. When contact was made with management at the right level, co-operation was more forthcoming and there is now much better liaison between site operators and ourselves.

#### Summary of Public Health Visits.

I have changed the headings under which visits are recorded, in an attempt to give more meaning to the summary. A "visit" may take several hours or only a few minutes, and the reason for visiting may not always fall easily into any category, so this summary is only of limited value. Nevertheless it will, I hope, give a broad picture of the changes from year to year in work done by the department.

These public health achievements result from the combined efforts of every member of the Public Health Department in conjunction with officers and staff of other departments, and encouraged and supported by the Council. I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their assistance in improving environmental conditions in the Rural District.

It has been a particular pleasure for me to work in such close harmony with Dr. Wray in his first full year as Medical Officer of Health to the Council.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.





# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1969.

## Public Health.

Investigations into complaints of nuisance due to:-									
	premises prejudicial to health	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
	accumulations or deposits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
	atmospheric pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
	noise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
General inspection of district for nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Re-visits concerning nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Visits re:-	water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	658
	sanitary surveys and sewer connections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320
	other domestic drainage matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
	land drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
	infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
	treatment of infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Inspections of:-	private caravan sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
	Council caravan sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
	gypsy camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Other public health calls and re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	291

## Housing.

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Re-visits to the above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Re-visits to the above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Houses inspected for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Re-visits to the above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Houses inspected re improvements...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Re-visits to the above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Visits re housing advances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39

## Food and Drugs.

Inspections of:-	bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
	butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	canteens, cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
	dairies and milk distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	grocers and general stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
	licensed premises...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
	poultry packing stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
	stalls, vehicles, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Follow-up visits to the above premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Food and Drugs visits and re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

## General.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:-									
	general inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	other inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories Act:-	visits to factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
	visits to outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Visits re:-	rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
	litter and abandoned vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
	refuse and salvage collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
	refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
	petroleum licensing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81

4,412



1. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

The Gastard/Linleys sewer extension was completed early in 1969, and of 66 properties which could be served, 51 have been connected to the sewer and 9 have satisfactory septic tanks. It is proposed to deal with the remaining 6 properties during the coming year.

The Hardenhuish scheme came into use during the year, and by December all properties except four had been connected. Of these, two are to be connected by the Council, in lieu of compensation for disturbance in sewer-laying. In the area served by this sewer, were 50 properties, of which 43 are connected to the Council's sewer and 3 to the Chippenham Borough sewers.

(b) Sampling of Effluents from Sewage Disposal Works.

All sampling of effluents from the Council's sewage disposal works is arranged by the Engineer and Surveyor and carried out by the Council's Chemist at the Thingley Sewage Disposal Works.

(c) Land Drainage Act 1961.

A complaint from two farmers at Corsham, of pollution in a brook running through their land, was investigated, and "cutting oil" was found to be entering the brook from the surface water system at Leafield Trading Estate. A detailed survey of this system, most of which was installed during the last war, was made and the trouble traced to the swarf storage bay at one of the factories on the Estate. Extensive improvements were made to the storage arrangements and an interceptor put into the drain; this appears to have cured the trouble.

Complaints of oil in the brook at Box occur fairly regularly. One of the worst sources has been eliminated but other periodic discharges are very difficult to pin down unless there is heavy pollution. There are so many points at which a small quantity of oil could gain access to a brook of this sort.

I am pleased to report that work started at the end of the year on the watercourse from Swalletts Farm to Ridgeway and The Bourne, at Christian Malford. The execution of this improvement scheme is the culmination of years of attempts to deal with complaints of its foul condition. Laying the public sewer relieved the watercourse of household drainage from a number of cottages which had for many years discharged into it, and made it possible then to persuade the various owners to clean out and re-grade the watercourse.

2. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

It was a disappointment not to be able to report the construction of the much-needed new conveniences at Lacock and Corsham but it is understood that the one for Lacock, at least, will be commenced early in 1970. The present conveniences are old and have passed the end of their useful lives. They are more difficult to keep clean than modern premises and a number of complaints are received from the public - with justification.

The other public conveniences at Box, Castle Combe and Colerne, have been satisfactorily maintained.



### 3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all the water supplied to this district is provided by the North Wilts Water Board, with the Bristol Waterworks supplying a small area at Burton. The Buxted Chicken Company obtains water from its own borehole for the poultry packing station at Sutton Benger.

#### (a) Adequacy of Supplies.

The remaining properties at Clewancy and in the Hither Farm area of Pewsham were connected to the extension mains which were laid last year.

No complaints of shortages or deficiencies in supplies were received during the year.

#### (b) Private Supplies.

One cottage in Calne Without was found to have an unsatisfactory supply of well water and was connected to the mains.

All but one of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from various points on one private supply, which has now been improved to a reasonably satisfactory standard. A very bad sample was obtained from a shallow well serving a cottage near Stanton St. Quintin. Connection of this cottage to the mains will be relatively expensive and for it to be done economically will require the co-operation of the owner of the adjoining fields; this has not yet been obtained.

#### (c) Contamination.

The occurrence of suspect samples from mains supplies has, except in the case of Nettleton, not followed any regular pattern and on re-sampling, after notification to the Water Board, samples have been satisfactory.

The Nettleton supply is not a very good one and when it has to be brought into use in late summer to augment supplies, causes a certain amount of discolouration in the water, due to the flow of water in pipes in the locality being reversed. This year there has also been a definite pattern of poor bacteriological results coinciding with the introduction of this supply. There is probably little more that can be done beyond flushing out the mains and watching chlorination, but this source will receive closer attention in the future.

#### (d) Sampling for Bacteriological and Chemical Examination.

Samples of treated water, as supplied to consumers, are taken by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath.

Weekly samples are taken from houses supplied directly from the main sources and from various points to give comprehensive coverage of supplies throughout the district.

The monthly samples are taken from places at the ends of mains, or as a check on supply areas between the weekly sampling points.

Untreated water is not sampled by this Department, these samples being taken by the North Wilts Water Board. The Water Board also takes its own check samples at consumer supply points.

A summary of the reports on all samples is given in the following sub-sections.

(i) Analysis of Reports on Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Department.

		Satisfactory	Suspect (Non-faecal coliforms present):	Unsatisfactory (faecal-type coliforms present):
<u>Weekly Samples:</u>				
Bristol Waterworks:	Burton	42	2	1
Calstone supply:	Theobalds Green	47	1	-
Cherhill "	Yatesbury	45	4	-
Chippenham "	Bowden Hill	45	2	-
" "	Fiveways	38	1	-
Goodshill "	Velley Hill	44	1	-
Rodbourne "	Stanton St. Quintin	43	1	-
Washwells "	Box (Market Place)	44	3	-
Widdenham "	Box (Bargates)	42	5	-
Mixed sources:	Castle Combe	43	4	-
	Christian Malford	44	1	1
	Colerne	49	-	-
	Corsham (Bath Road)	45	1	-
	Hilmarton	43	2	-
	Marshfield Reservoir	45	2	-
	Nettleton (Horsdown)	34	5	2
	West Kingston	47	2	-
<u>Monthly Samples:</u>	Compton Bassett	12	-	-
	Draycot Cerne	12	-	-
	East Tytherton	12	1	1
	Foxham	12	-	-
	Grittleton	11	2	-
	Neston	12	-	-
<u>Totals of Samples taken:</u>				
Public supplies	... ..	811	40	6
Private supplies	... ..	7	2	2

(ii) Sampling by the North Wilts Water Board.

The Engineer to the Water Board has kindly supplied the following information.

General.

No substantial changes have occurred in the arrangement of the water supplies of the North Wilts Water Board during this year. The Board's supplies are obtained generally from underground sources in limestone aquifers, having relatively abundant storage facilities and providing water of a high standard of purity, suitable for public supplies. The water is hard in character (between 150 and 360 parts-per-million total hardness).

Bacteriological Examination of Samples taken from Consumer Supply Points.

Under the year of review, 1398 samples from consumers' points of supply were examined. Of these:-

1327 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1  
58 were reported to have coliform counts of 1-2  
13 had coliform counts of 3 or more.



Bacteriological Examination of  
Untreated Water from Sources.

Similar supervisory work is done regularly with untreated waters from the Board's sources, and in the past year the results were as follows:-

674 samples of raw water were submitted.

Excellent:	Coliform count of less than 1	...	484
Satisfactory:	" " " 1-3	... ..	112
Suspicious:	" " " 4-10	... ..	39
Unsatisfactory:	" " " more than 10	...	39

Samples excellent and satisfactory, 88½%.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Raw Waters.

	Source and Date:				
	Chippenham	Rodbourne	Charlton	Calstone	Widdenham
	Borehole 19.11.69	Borehole 16.7.69	Borehole 22.10.69	Springs 16.4.69	Springs 18.6.69
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH.	7.2	7.6	7.3	7.1	7.5
Free CO <sub>2</sub> (p.p.m.)	35	12	27	45	16
Chloride { " }	49	42	23	13	44
Hardness { " }	350	300	290	325	305
Carbonates { " }	275	215	250	275	235
Non-Carbonates { " }	75	85	40	50	70
Nitrate Nitrogen { " }	0.3	0.4	2.5	3.3	3.1
Nitrite Nitrogen { " }	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed { " }	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alb.Nitrogen { " }	0.02	0.00	0.20	0.10	0.00
Metals { " }	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride { " }	0.75	0.75	0.4	Less than 0.1	0.2

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supply of between 0.1 and 0.3 parts per million.

The Board continues to exercise supervision of the quality of raw water from all the sources by submitting samples to their Consultant Chemists, the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and any changes in chemical or mineralogical qualities of the water are reported upon by Mr.Gordon Miles, the Principal of those Laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.4 to 0.7 parts per million in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone, but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that none of the waters supplied are plumbo-solvent.

The Board continues to make provision for increases in the demand for water, by seeking additional sources, and this work is being done in close co-operation with the River Authorities, whose statutory areas extend through the Board's area of supply.

#### 4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

##### (a) Refuse Collection.

It has been very difficult to retain or recruit satisfactory labour for this service, but it is hoped that the introduction of work study and the eventual payment of an incentive bonus for satisfactory and greater output of work will encourage the men who form the backbone of the service to remain with the department and enable me to engage men of a higher calibre to undertake this heavy, and often unpleasant, work.

During the year a 5-ton lorry and a 5-cwt. van were replaced by a new 7-ton Bedford open lorry and a 7-cwt. Ford van, otherwise the vehicle fleet has remained as in former years.

The cost of maintaining the vehicles used in the public cleansing service increases each year due to rising service charges, and research into vehicle costs over previous years reveals a steep rise in such costs for vehicles of five years of age and over. As a consequence of this information, the Council has agreed on a policy of replacing such vehicles after five years' service.

Much new legislation relating to transport has received the Royal Assent, recently, in particular, the Road Safety Act 1967, the Transport Act 1968, the Goods Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations etc. This legislation imposes on all users of transport a heavy responsibility to see that all vehicles are maintained in a good condition.

All costs on public cleansing are rising steadily, and the total cost of this service for 1969 was £36,125.

##### (b) Refuse Disposal.

The Council disposes of its refuse by controlled tipping on three sites, situated at Calne Without, Grittleton and Sutton Benger.

In my 1968 Report I estimated that the Grittleton tip would be full by the end of 1969: fortunately this forecast was not correct and there should be sufficient tipping space there until the end of 1970.

It was not possible to make use of the tipping area at Sands Farm, which is shared with Calne Borough, because of the unsatisfactory and waterlogged approach road to the tip during the winter months. This road will be improved so that greater use can be made of this tip, thereby saving valuable tipping space at the remaining refuse tip at Sutton Benger. By the middle of 1971, the Council will be desperately short of tipping space, unless other suitable areas become available for controlled tipping.

##### (c) Supply of Dustbins.

The Council has continued its policy of purchasing dustbins for resale to the public at cost price plus delivery charges, and 153 dustbins were sold during the year.

The pilot scheme of refuse collection by 'paper' sacks in the Prospect and Rudloe areas has continued, and has been extended to include all new houses in Brook Drive. This scheme now covers approximately 600 houses. I hope that the Council some day will extend this hygienic method of refuse collection to the whole of the Rural District, but this will have to be postponed until a solution to the refuse disposal problem has been found and put into operation.



(d) Litter Problem.

Litter is a problem which is ever with us. and there are some people - probably only a minority - whose disregard of litter bins gives me a feeling of helpless anger. If the parents are insensible of the damage done to the countryside which they so eagerly seek on their litter-strewn tours, perhaps their children can be made aware, in this economy-conscious age of the cost of clearing up the mess, if nothing else. This is a national problem which could be more easily solved by television publicity and education in schools, but by reliance on the provisions of the Litter Act.

(e) Civic Amenities Act 1967.

During the year a further fifteen vehicles were dealt with under this Act. Although it is sometimes possible to trace a registered owner, it is usually found that the car has changed hands and then been run untaxed and without insurance.

Of the fifteen vehicles dealt with nine were removed by the owners, and the Council removed six and broke them up at Sutton Benger refuse tip for sale as scrap. It might be mentioned that the scrap so obtained is considered by the trade to be of poor quality and the quantity we have to dispose of may, in the future, attract little or no income.

5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

The sale price of baled waste paper was increased from £7.10.0. to £8.0.0. per ton in January 1969, and a further increase of 10/- per ton was notified in May. This increase of £1 per ton has helped to cushion the rising labour costs. During 1969, over 350 tons of baled paper was sold for £2840, an increase of £625 over the previous year.

Much more waste paper could be collected, especially newspapers and periodicals, with the co-operation of the public, 50% of whom do not salvage paper for collection by the Council.

The Council also provides a good service for collection of cardboard and waste paper from shop premises. Unfortunately, a minority of shopkeepers abuse this free service by failing to flatten cardboard boxes or tie waste paper in bundles. More serious still is the habit of mixing contraries with the waste paper, and these have to be separated from 'clean' paper in the baling shed at some cost to the Council.

6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Private Sites.

The number of licensed sites increased during the year to thirty. Three of the new licensees are on building sites; two sites are used by men on contract work, and the other is occupied by a farm worker.

The numbers fluctuate from year to year as licences are normally granted for temporary periods of approximately two years. There are some seventeen sites which are of long standing, but the number is slowly being reduced.

Besides the sites licensed for residential use, there are four sites in the district registered for use by members of the Caravan Club. Also, at Stanton St. Quintin, there is a large site of about thirty caravans used by workers on the M.4 motorway, and a number of smaller sites are used by road builders and pylon erectors. As these are on or adjacent to the construction sites the caravans are exempt from licensing under the Act. These caravans will, of course, disappear when the contractors leave the district.



The private site at Thickwood, Colerne, has continued in an unsatisfactory condition, but upon failure of the owner to carry out the necessary works, negotiations were opened to agree terms for the Council to take over the site, improve amenities and control it for the remainder of the licence period. These negotiations should be completed early in the new year.

Total Number of Current Licences:

<u>Parish:</u>	<u>No. of Licences:</u>	<u>No. of Caravans:</u>
Box	4	34
Brenhill	4	4
Chippenham Without	1	1
Christian Malford	2	3
Colerne	4	25
Corsham	2	2
Hilmarton	2	1
Kington Langley	2	2
Lacock	1	-
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	2	2
Stanton St. Quintin	1	1
Sutton Benger	4	4
	<u>30</u>	<u>80</u>

(b) Sites Provided by the Council.

Eighty-seven standings for caravans are maintained by the Council on their sites at Corsham, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell. All have been fully occupied and the demand for standings, particularly in Corsham, has increased considerably during the year.

There will, I consider, always be a place for a local authority controlled site in a community like Corsham, as a caravan is often a convenient start for a young couple, and also offers elderly single people an opportunity of maintaining their independence. On a recent survey it was found that one quarter of the caravans at Northleaze were occupied by single persons, the majority being pensioners.

The small site at Goatacre which was in process of being run down, due to lack of demand, was closed during the early part of the year. The land was handed over to the Housing Department because it adjoins the Council housing estate and will provide a much-needed play area.

7. NUISANCES FROM INTENSIVE FARMING.

Complaints about the long-standing smell nuisance from the Marden Farm pig experimental establishment have continued. It is quite apparent that there is still no portable sprayer on the market with the power to push out enough deodoriser over a sufficient area to combat the smell.

A number of meetings have been held and it is hoped, in next year's Annual Report, to record the end of the nuisance through adoption of an entirely different method of disposal. It is now proposed to pump all the liquids and solids to the most distant field on the farm, and aerate the effluent by a series of lagoons, discharging it onto the land only at times when the land will take it. The main difference is that the new scheme will provide a holding period so that discharges can be made when the time is suitable and not, as at present on the limited capacity, as soon as the tanks are full.

8. SCHOOLS.

An immediate visit was made to Colerne Primary School on receipt of a message from the County Medical Officer of Health that about thirty children had collapsed at school.

A local doctor had already been called and the affected children were being taken home by the school staff. Most had recovered in the fresh air, although a few were still sickly and unwell. An inspection of the school and interviews with the staff indicated the cause to be fumes and carbon monoxide gas from the solid fuel stove, coupled with poor ventilation. The headmaster said he had been expecting oil-fired heating to be installed for some time, but could get no action on the matter. Visits were made to several homes but the ill-effects had lasted only an hour or so in the worst cases, it being likely that only a few children were actually affected, and the rest were victims of hysteria.

A report was made to the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, recommending the cleaning and checking of the stoves and flues, and improvement of the ventilation. He indicated that he would suggest to the County Education Officer that a critical appraisal be made of the future life of this rather old school.

During a visit to Sutton Benger Primary School it was noticed that there was a marked downdraught from one of the coke boiler flues. The flues were short and uninsulated, making a good draught impossible, and the head teacher was advised to stop using both stoves at the school. Emergency gas heaters were supplied by the Education Department until an oil-fired system was installed, since when there has been no trouble.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of enquiries made into notified or suspected cases of infectious disease is as follows:-

Dysentery	...	...	...	...	12
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	28
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5
Smallpox (contacts)	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	8

We had no definable outbreak of dysentery during the year, the twelve cases investigated being spread over the district.

Most of the hepatitis cases were connected with two primary schools at Corsham. This is a very unsatisfactory complaint to investigate, as owing to the possible length of the incubation period and lack of knowledge of the method of spread of the disease, preventive environmental measures are practically impossible.

Enquiries were made into three cases of suspected food poisoning but no connection between the cases was established, and bacteriological tests proved negative.

10. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956.

During the year, three applications were received for approval of boiler/chimney installations. Two were satisfactory but the other concerned a new chimney to a solid fuel fired installation where it was proposed to install a plain steel chimney. On our recommendation, this was changed to a fully-insulated type, which will considerably reduce the risk of condensation and corrosion.

11. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades, as defined in Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936, established within this district.



B. FOOD AND DRUGS.

1. FOOD PREMISES: FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960.

The food premises within the Rural District consist of:-

Premises:	No.:	No. complying with Regn.16 (wash-basins provided):	No. of premises to which Regn.19 (facilities for washing food and equipment):-	
			(a) applies	(b) is complied with:
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Butchers	9	9	9	9
Fish-and-Chip Shops	1	1	1	1
Fish and Fruit Shops	4	4	3	3
Grocers and				
General Stores	67	67	31	31
Licensed Premises	60	50	60	60
Restaurants and Cafes	9	9	9	9
Sweets and Ices Shops	14	14	-	-
Factories and				
Distributors	2	2	1	1
	173	173	121	121

During the year a fish-and-chip shop at Colerne was closed and the premises converted to a butcher's shop which complies with the Food Hygiene Regulations. As a result, the existing butchery, which has caused concern for years as it was impossible for the owner to modernise it, has been closed and will not be used again for the sale of food.

A family grocer at Corsham and four small village shops closed during the last twelve months.

Poultry Packing Station, Sutton Benger.

In the course of the year, a total of 125 visits were made to this factory, during which time 8,942,659 broiler chickens were processed. The factory deals almost exclusively with the 8½-weeks-old broiler chicken, the only exception being a very occasional killing of a few thousand cockerels and hens which have been used as parent stock, providing eggs for the hatcheries. These birds are put through at the end of the working day.

The percentage of birds rejected by the factory is always exceedingly small; this year it was 0.145%. The reason for this is that the whole process is one of culling anything imperfect throughout the whole procedure of laying, hatching and rearing.

The amount of "passed" material found to be unfit by the visiting Inspector is virtually nil. On the other hand, the amount rejected by the factory certainly exceeds the amount that would be officially condemned.

During visits, all parts of the factory are seen. No food factory is perfect and this is no exception, but the conditions generally are very good. I attach great importance to the company's policy of chlorinating the processing water to about 15 parts per million, and especially to their super-chlorination of the water in the spin-chiller, where the reading is usually 35 parts per million at the outlet end.

The factory and its environs present an ever-changing scene of extension, improvement and alteration. This is due to the steadily increasing demand for chicken meat, which is now probably the cheapest meat available, and all home-produced.

In 1954, 5,000,000 broilers were eaten in Britain, and we are now on the way towards consuming 250,000,000 per annum. Since we eat per head (of chicken), less than half of the amount they eat in the United States of America, it seems feasible that annual production may eventually reach and exceed the 600,000,000 mark.

#### Licensed Premises.

During the course of a visit to a licensed club in the district, it was found that considerable modernisation at great expense had been carried out with no reference to any department of this Council. The work in itself was satisfactory from the public health aspect, but it was astounding to see that no work whatever had been done to the antiquated and sub-standard sanitary accommodation. The property was leased by a brewery, the toilets were not the club's responsibility, and no approach had been made to the owners to have the toilets improved at the same time as the other work. As a result of this, protracted negotiations were started with the brewery to effect improvement and, if possible, replacement of the sanitary accommodation.

The number of licensed houses in the district remains at 60. During the year, one house at Box has been completely renovated and improved. A public house near Corsham was provided with improved lavatory accommodation.

Only one licensed house in the district - "The Crown" at Giddeahall - is lacking in drainage facilities and I have been pressing the brewery for some years to produce a scheme to overcome this problem, which is accentuated by the fall of the land. This house is now on the market and, if the purchaser intends to maintain the licence, he will have to provide proper facilities.

#### Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the Rural District remains, as before:-

Bremhill	...	...	...	1
Castle Combe	...	...	...	1
Cherhill	...	...	...	1
Colerne	...	...	...	1
Corsham	...	...	...	3

#### Fried Fish Shops.

Of the two fish-and-chip shops in the district one, at Colerne, was closed early in the year and the premises have been converted into a butcher's shop.

The other, at Corsham, is situated on land owned by the Council, near the Community Centre, which may be required at any time under the redevelopment scheme. This is not a good building, but I do not feel justified in pressing for major alterations in view of its uncertain future. The general standard of operation and hygiene is satisfactory under the difficult conditions.



## 2. FOOD COMPLAINTS.

Complaints from the public during the year included:-

A loaf of bread containing hard lumps of dough: the makers alleged this was due to inefficient cleaning of machinery following maintenance work.

A punctured tin of corned beef, probably damaged at the docks and not spotted until after delivery to the customer.

A packet of sausage rolls affected by mould, apparently due to the packet being moved in the shop and overlooked when stocks were checked.

Owing to administrative problems, no proceedings were taken but the complaints were thoroughly thrashed out with the shops in question.

Further complaints dealt with were:-

Mould in a fruit pie, reported five days after purchase: the retailer was advised to shorten the shelf life allowed for this product.

Purple colouration of potato crisps: apparently this is caused by the use of green potatoes, normally sorted out and rejected.

Carbonaceous material adhering to a loaf of bread, probably due to incomplete cleaning of the tray: the bakery concerned was advised of this minor complaint.

Looking at this problem generally, the complaints we receive can be classed as being caused by mechanical failure or human error. If foreign matter enters a machine-made foodstuff during production, it may be impossible to detect until the article is received by the consumer. Most of the complaints of unfit food arise from the failure of food handlers to appreciate the short shelf life of many manufactured products, or failure to notice expired code marks or blemishes on the articles.

There must be very few established traders today who would knowingly sell suspect food - with keen competition they must maintain their good name - but we always appreciate complaints from the public, even though apparently trivial, as we can then discuss with the retailer possible improvements in his methods. On such visits we always stress the advisability of adopting a simple coding system for perishable goods, even in a one-man business, as it is so easy to overlook the odd pie or pack of sausages unless they are clearly identifiable.

## 3. CONDEMNED FOODS.

During 1969 the following foodstuffs were examined by the Public Health Inspectors, found to be unfit, and subsequently surrendered:-

1 x 10lbs. tinned ham  
66 packets 'Shredded Wheat' (flood damaged)  
101 lbs. beef.

Some £70 worth of frozen foods, damaged by breakdown of refrigeration machinery, were condemned as well.

#### 4. MILK AND DAIRIES.

##### (a) Registration.

The number of registered distributors has again dropped slightly. Retail shops, such as grocers, which sell small quantities of bottled milk, are included in this category, and changes of ownership and type of trade in these premises usually account for the annual fluctuation in the numbers registered.

No. of registered dairies ... .. 8

No. of registered distributors ... .. 19

The dealers' licences to sell designated milk which have been issued in this district are as follows:-

##### Designation:

Untreated milk ... .. 1

Pasteurised milk ... .. 19

Sterilised milk ... .. 5

Ultra-heat-treated milk ... .. 1

A further three producer/retailers closed down during 1969. Although these were all reputable tradesmen, I must confess to a feeling of relief when the sale of raw milk, and with it the danger of customers contracting Undulant Fever from milk infected with *Brucella Abortus*, is further diminished. We now have one producer/retailer, who is the only retailer of untreated milk in the district.

##### (b) Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Regular samples from distributors licensed in this district are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath.

Monthly samples of raw milk and milk processed outside the County, and quarterly samples of milk heat-treated in Wiltshire, are taken under powers delegated by the County Council.

The reports on these samples were as follows:-

Satisfactory... .. 166

Unsatisfactory ... .. 2

Void (shade temperature at Laboratory  
exceeded prescribed maximum) ... .. 11

##### (c) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

Fifteen sets of samples were taken from churns at the farms of producers who supply untreated milk to retailers in this area. None of these samples showed the presence of Tuberculosis or *Brucella Abortus*.

All samples of raw milk taken for statutory examination were also tested for the presence of *Brucella Abortus*, with negative results.

##### (d) Bottle Rinses.

Eight sets of empty, washed bottles were submitted for examination, all of which were satisfactory.

5. ICE CREAM.

The standard of hygiene in the eighty-nine premises which are registered for the sale of ice cream has been satisfactory.

Eighty-four samples of ice cream were taken for routine examination, with the following results:-

Grade:

I	...	...	...	63
II	...	...	...	19
III	...	...	...	2
IV	...	...	...	Nil

6. THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurization plants in this district.

7. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

The number of horse carcasses received at the knackers' yard at Heddington during the year totalled twenty-two, fourteen of these animals having been slaughtered on farms.

Six slaughterman's licences have been issued, all to men employed at the Heddington knackers' yard.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, but we continue to have the one knackers' yard at Heddington.

In accordance with the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969, the practice of staining the raw flesh with green dye was discontinued, and everything is now sterilised by boiling until it is cooked.

These Regulations were welcomed by all responsible people, because the practice of staining green so obviously failed to deal effectively with danger from raw diseased meat.

A by-product of the animals is the large quantity of fat. This is rendered down by boiling, and stored in 40-gallon drums for despatch to soap works. The smell of the fat being rendered, plus the smell of cooling flesh, is better avoided! Fortunately, the premises are reasonably isolated, the nearest dwellings being occupied by those employed at the knackers' yard.

Of late, we have been encouraging the owners to rebuild the premises, which have now outlived their useful life and should be replaced by a more modern building. Plans have now been deposited with the Council showing a building with all modern amenities, rest room, wash room and shower for the men, and with all processes and storage under cover.



## C. HOUSING.

### 1. HOUSING ACT 1969.

The housing survey referred to earlier in my report is already under way and inspection of houses in the parish of Stanton St. Quintin is almost complete.

### 2. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of applications for standard grant rose slightly but there was a marked drop in discretionary grants - sixteen fewer applications and nineteen fewer approvals, compared with 1968.

It is too soon to say to what extent the higher, unconditional grants available under the Housing Act 1969 will counter the effects of steadily-rising building costs.

### 3. HOUSING STATISTICS.

#### (a) Number of Dwellings in the District

No. of domestic assessments (as at 1st April 1969)	...	...	8,843
" " permanent dwellings (as at 31st December 1969)	...	...	2,023
" " temporary " ( " " " " " )	...	...	64

#### (b) Proceedings under Housing Acts:

Houses inspected for fitness	...	...	...	...	62
No. reported as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	4
Notices served requiring defects to be remedied (Secs.9,10)	...	...	...	...	1
Houses made fit after service of formal notices:-					
(i) by owners	...	...	...	...	7
(ii) by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	7
Demolition Orders made (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	-
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	8
Demolition Order revoked, house made fit	...	...	...	...	-
Wartime bungalows demolished by the Council	...	...	...	...	6
Undertakings not to re-let accepted (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings to make fit accepted (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	-
Undertakings to make fit complied with	...	...	...	...	2
Closing Orders made (Secs.17,18)	...	...	...	...	1
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	2
Closing Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.27)	...	...	...	...	1
Cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	...	...	...	...	-
" " " abated " " "	...	...	...	...	-

(c) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses inspected for defects under Public Health Acts	40
Formal notices served ... ..	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal notices:-	
(i) by owners ... ..	1
(ii) by local authority in default of owners ...	-

(d) Improvement Grants - Discretionary:

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Applications received for conversions ... (houses)	7	-
"               "       " improvements... ( " )	50	41
Approvals for conversion of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property... .. ( " )	1	-
(ii) other               "       ... .. ( " )	6	-
Approvals for improvement of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property... .. ( " )	30	24
(ii) other               "       ... .. ( " )	19	13
No. of dwellings provided or improved	54	38
Amount of grants paid	£ 20,615	£ 13,992

(e) Improvement Grants - Standard:

Applications received	(houses)	33	35
"               approved:-			
(i) owner/occupied property	( " )	21	25
(ii) other               "	( " )	7	8
No. of houses improved		27	30
Amount of grants paid		£ 4,610	£ 4,639

4. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

I know of only one property - at Pickwick Road, Corshan - which comes within the provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1961. Routine visits have been made to this house during the course of the year.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No common lodging houses are registered in this Rural District.

D. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

1. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

In July we received a circular letter from the Department of Employment and Productivity, emphasising their 'main concern' that there should be effective arrangements for enforcement throughout the country, and with this end in view the Central Advisory Inspectorate issued notes on methods of enforcement.

These notes, which, it is explained, are the fruit of years of experience in enforcement of the Factories Acts, are really excellent and would be invaluable to us were it not for the fact that they follow so closely the practice which we - and no doubt most other Public Health Departments - have already developed in dealing with this and other legislation.

We completed our initial general inspections in 1967 and by the end of 1968 had, for all practical purposes, completed the follow-up of the deficiencies which were found to exist. We do not have many registered premises and there have been few serious contraventions. Little routine work has been done during the past year, but we will be resuming general re-inspections during 1970.

Only three accidents were reported during 1969, none of which were serious.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during year	Total no. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during year
Offices	-	33	1
Retail shops	-	65	-
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	18	1
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
Totals:	-	121	2

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises during 1969 was nine.



(b) Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	223
Retail shops	221
Wholesale departments, warehouses	40
Catering establishments open to public	104
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	17
Total:	605
Total males:	288
Total females:	317

(c) Exemptions.

Part I:	Space (Section 5(2))	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part II:	Temperature (Section 6)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part III:	Sanitary conveniences (Section 9)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part IV:	Washing facilities (Section 10)	...	...	...	...	Nil

(d) Contraventions.

	Found	Remedied
Sec. 4: Cleanliness	-	-
" 5: Overcrowding	-	-
" 6: Temperature	-	-
" 7: Ventilation	-	-
" 8: Lighting	-	-
" 9: Sanitary conveniences	1	1
" 10: Washing facilities	1	1
" 11: Supply of drinking water	-	-
" 12: Accommodation for clothing	-	-
" 13: Sitting facilities	-	-
" 14: Seats for sedentary workers	-	-
" 15: Eating facilities	-	-
" 16: Floors, passages, stairs	1	-
" 17: Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	-
" 18: Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-	-
" 19: Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-	-
" 23: Prohibition of heavy work	-	-
" 24: First aid - general provisions	1	1
Information for Employees Regulations 1965	-	-
Totals:	4	3
No. of prosecutions:	Nil.	

(e) Staff.

No. of Inspectors appointed under Sec.52(1) or (5) of the Act ... 4

No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act ... Nil



## 2. FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are eighty-five registered factories, four of them on Crown property and therefore controlled entirely by the Factories Inspectorate.

### (a) Registrations and Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of:-		
		Inspection	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the local authority	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority	85	30*	3	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	3	-	-
Totals:	90	33	3	-

\* Inspection of factories which are also food premises (e.g. bakehouses and poultry packing stations) are not recorded here, as the maintenance of sanitary accommodation is checked during inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### (b) Number of Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases where defects were:-				Prosecu- -tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred:-		
			to H.M. Inspr.	by H.M. Inspr.	
Sanitary conveniences (Sec.7):					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes	1	1	-	1	-

### (c) Outworkers.

Notification has been received from other authorities of eleven outworkers resident in this district, all engaged in glove-making. Many home workers are engaged in rubber-trimming, notification of which is not required under the Factories Act.

E. RODENT CONTROL.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

I set out below details of an annual return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The figures referred to in paragraphs 2(a), 2(b), 3(a) and 3(b) represent the number of individual premises visited in connection with rodent infestation complaints, and do not include subsequent re-visits.

(a) Inspection of Properties other than Sewers.

	Type of Property:-	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in the district	8410	1049
2(a) Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification:	361	12
(b) No. infested by:- (i) Rats	169	10
(ii) Mice	42	2
3(a) Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys:	263	69
(b) No. infested by:- (i) Rats	60	42
(ii) Mice	2	3

(b) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatment.

Much of the Rodent Officer's time is taken up with the test-baiting of public sewers throughout the Rural District, and this represents four months' almost continuous work from late spring until well into the summer, and of course if any sections of sewer prove to be infested, it is necessary for poison treatments to be carried out to clear the sewer of rats. In 1969 it was only necessary to poison-bait sewers at Box Hill and in Pickwick, Charles Street and Northleaze, Corsham.

(c) Routine Visits.

With so many other duties to perform, it has not been possible for the Rodent Officer to visit so many farms and business premises on routine visits. This is unfortunate as, from previous experience, the liaison which he has with members of the agricultural community is of mutual benefit.

F.        MISCELLANEOUS.

1.    PETROLEUM LICENSING.

At the end of the year there were 147 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum.

2.    DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

There are six licensed swill-boiling plants in the district, as last year, and all have been visited to ensure compliance with the Order.

3.    ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Eight premises were licensed during 1969 but one, at Corsham, closed down at the end of the year.

4.    SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964.

At the end of the year there were twenty registered scrap metal dealers in the district, four more than in 1968.

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